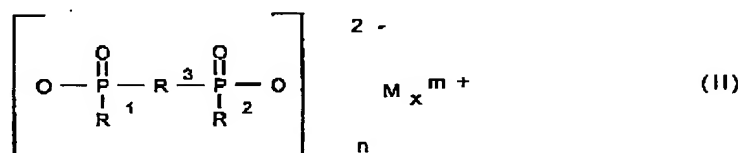
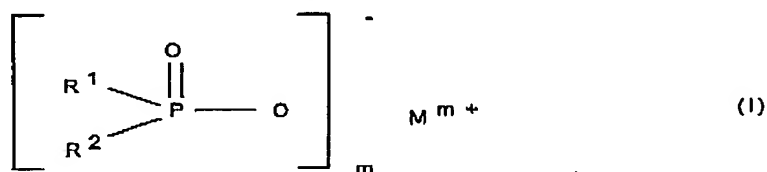


Attorney's Docket: 2002DE129
 Serial No.: 10/655,886
 Group: 1621

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A surface-modified phosphinic salt selected from the group consisting formula (I) a surface-modified diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), mixtures of formula (I) and formula (II) polymers of formula (I), polymers of formula (II) and mixtures of polymers of formula (I) and (II) ,



where

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₆-alkyl, linear or branched, or aryl;

R³ is C₁-C₁₀-alkylene, linear or branched, C₆-C₁₀-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4,

wherein the phosphinic salt and/or diphosphinic salt, or their polymers, have been encapsulated with a surface layer composed of a synthetic resin or a wax.

Attorney's Docket: 2002DE129
Serial No.: 10/655,886
Group: 1621

2. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, linear or branched, and phenyl.
3. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl and phenyl.
4. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.
5. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylene or naphthylene.
6. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, or tert-butylnaphthylene.
7. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene, or phenylbutylene.
8. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein M is calcium, aluminum, or zinc.
9. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the synthetic resin comprises a curable resin.
10. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the curable resin is an epoxy resin, a phenolic resin, or a melamine resin.

Attorney's Docket: 2002DE129
Serial No.: 10/655,886
Group: 1621

11. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

12. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

13. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon waxes, ester waxes, oxidized polyolefin waxes, oxidized hydrocarbon waxes, amide waxes, wax acids, wax soaps and a combination of these components.

14. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax is used in a form selected from the group consisting of powder, micropowder, dispersion in water, dispersion in solvent, and in the form of dispersions in water/solvent mixtures.

15. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount added of the wax is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

16. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as phlegmatizer is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

17. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 16, wherein the water-emulsifiable organic liquid is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, phthalates, and aromatic phosphoric esters.

Attorney's Docket: 2002DE129
Serial No.: 10/655,886
Group: 1621

18. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one of the compound selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, dimelamine phosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, melamine polyphosphates, melam polyphosphates, melam polyphosphates and melon polyphosphates.

19. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one melamine condensation product selected from the group consisting of melam, melam, and melon.

20. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of oligomeric esters of tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate with aromatic polycarboxylic acids, benzoguanamine, tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate, allantoin, glycoluril, melamine, melamine cyanurate, dicyandiamide, and.

21. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a nitrogen-containing phosphates of the formulae $(\text{NH}_4)_y\text{H}_{3-y}\text{PO}_4$ or $(\text{NH}_4\text{PO}_3)_z$, where y is from 1 to 3 and z is from 1 to 10 000.

22. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a synthetic inorganic compound a mineral product or both.

23. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed claim 22, wherein the synthetic inorganic compound or the mineral product is selected from the group consisting of an oxygen compound of silicon, magnesium compounds, metal carbonates of metals of the second main group of the periodic table, red phosphorus, comprises zinc compounds and aluminum compounds.

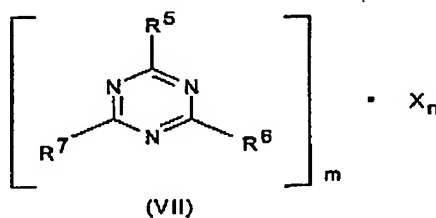
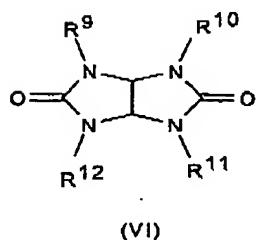
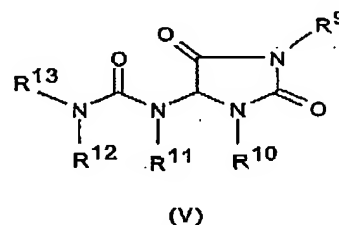
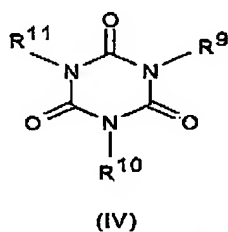
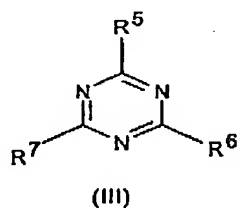
24. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 23, wherein the

Attorney's Docket: 2002DE129
Serial No.: 10/655,886
Group: 1621

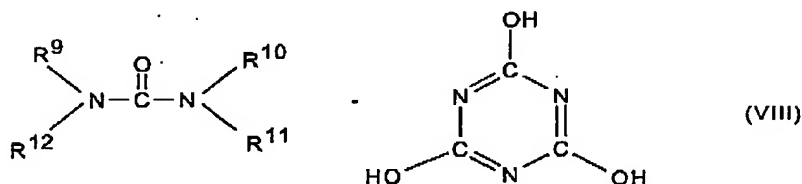
oxygen compounds of silicon are selected from the group consisting of salts and esters of orthosilicic acid and condensation products thereof, silicates, zeolites, silicas, glass powder, glass/ceramic powder, ceramic powder; wherein the magnesium compounds are selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, hydrotalcites, magnesium carbonates and magnesium calcium carbonates; wherein the zinc compounds are selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc stannate, zinc hydroxystannate, zinc phosphate, zinc borate, and zinc sulfides; and wherein the aluminum compounds are selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide and aluminum phosphate.

25. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one nitrogen compound.

26. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 25, wherein the nitrogen compounds are selected from the formulae (III) to (VIII) and mixtures thereof



Attorney's Docket: 2002DE129
 Serial No.: 10/655,886
 Group: 1621



where

R^5 to R^7 are hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, or C_5 - C_{16} -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl function, C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, C_6 - C_{12} -aryl or -arylalkyl, $-OR^8$, $-N(R^8)R^9$, N-alicyclic systems or N-aromatic systems,

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, C_5 - C_{16} -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl function, C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, or C_6 - C_{12} -aryl or -arylalkyl,

R^9 to R^{13} are the groups of R^8 , or $-O-R^8$,

m and n, independently of one another, are 1, 2, 3, or 4,

X is an acid which can form adducts with triazine compounds (III).

27. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one carbodiimide.

28. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing compounds as claimed in claim 1 comprising the steps of adjusting the pH of an aqueous suspension of a phosphinate to between 4 and 9, then adding an aqueous emulsion of a wax or of a synthetic resin, or a solution of the wax or synthetic resin in a water-miscible solvent, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 40 to 80°C, wherein 0.1% to 20% wax or synthetic resin are applied to 80 to 99.9 parts by weight of phosphinate.

29. through 36. (Cancelled)

Attorney's Docket: 2002DE129
Serial No.: 10/655,886
Group: 1621

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37. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 1 to 5% by weight, based in the phosphinic salt.
38. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount added of the wax is from 1 to 5%, by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.
39. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as a phlegmatizer is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 1% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.
40. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, further comprising the steps of adding an aqueous emulsion of an organic liquid, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 20 to 90°C.
41. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28 further comprising the step of adding from 0.1 to 5% by weight of phlegmatizer.